

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 03396

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, MARR, MILI, XF
SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON AND THE UNIFIL MANDATE

1. UNIFIL/GOI/CHRISTIAN MILITIA AGREEMENT. IN FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH LEONARD ON AUGUST 31 REGARDING SIILASVUO/WEIZMAN AGREEMENT AND SUBSEQUENT UN JERUSALEM HQ PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT, URQUHART INDICATED UNDERSTANDING OF OBVIOUS ISRAELI INTEREST IN MAKING DETAILS OF AGREEMENT AVAILABLE ASAP BUT SOME UNHAPPINESS WITH SIILASVUO'S HANDLING OF THE MATTER. URQUHART'S CONCERNS ARE TWOFOLD: (A) SIILASVU FAILED TO INFORM GOL IN ADVANCE WITH UNFORTUNATE RESULT THAT BOUTROS LEARNED OF THE AGREEMENT FROM HEADLINES IN THE BEIRUT NEWSPAPERS AND (B) ARABS MAY FORM IMPRESSION THAT UN HAS ASSISTED ISRAELIS IN GETTING PUBLIC RELATIONS BONANZA FOR ENTERING INTO AGREEMENT IN WHICH THEY ARE DOING NOTHING MORE THAN COMPLYING AFTER CONSIDERABLE DELAY WITH OBLIGATIONS ARISING FROM RESOLUTION 425.

2. AS REGARDS THE POSSIBILITY OF A MEETING BETWEEN WEIZMAN AND WALDHEIM IN NEW YORK, RAISED IN JERUSALEM 2419
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URQUHART TOLD LEONARD HE IS NOT PRESENTLY DISPOSED TO RECOMMEND SUCH A MEETING. UNLESS SEPTEMBER 1 MEETING BETWEEN BEN-GAL AND ERSKINE GOES BADLY, WE SHARE URQUHART'S ASSESSMENT THAT THERE IS LITTLE MORE THAT THE SYG COULD ASK WEIZMAN TO DO AT THIS STAGE.

3. RENEWAL OF UNIFIL MANDATE. IN COURSE OF LUNCHEON

DISCUSSION WITH LEONARD AUGUST 31 WHICH FOCUSSED HEAVILY ON SITUATION IN LEBANON, KUWAITI UN PERMREP BISHARA SAID IT WAS ESSENTIAL FOR THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO RENEW THE UNIFIL MANDATE, AND INDICATED HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THIS WOULD BE THE POSITION OF THE ARAB GROUP. BISHARA CONTINUED, HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS WORKING ON THE TEXT OF A DRAFT RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD CONDEMN ISRAEL FOR OBSTRUCTING THE EFFORTS OF UNIFIL TO ASSIST THE GOL IN RESTORING ITS AUTHORITY IN SOUTHERN LEBANON.

4. URQUHART HAS TOLD US THAT IN DISCUSSION WITH BISHARA THE PREVIOUS DAY HE INTENTIONALLY HAD PAINTED A GLOOMY PICTURE OF THE DIFFICULTIES UNIFIL WAS ENCOUNTERING IN CARRYING OUT ITS MANDATE, AND EVEN SPECULATED THAT THE MANDATE MIGHT NOT BE RENEWED. THIS EVOKED FROM BISHARA THE REACTION URQUHART WANTED I.E., A STRONG STATEMENT SIMILAR TO THAT GIVEN TO LEONARD THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO RENEW THE MANDATE.

5. BARRING UNFORESEEN DEVELOPMENTS, WE BELIEVE THE MANDATE WILL BE RENEWED. HOWEVER, WE WILL HAVE TO CONSULT CAREFULLY WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS TO DISSUADE BISHARA FROM PUSHING HIS TEXT SO THAT THE RESOLUTION IS CONFINED TO A SIMPLE RENEWAL. TUENI WILL BE A KEY FIGURE IN THIS EXERCISE. LEONARD

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